

# THE LACLEDE BLADE.

A. J. GAYWOOD, Publisher.

LACLEDE, MISSOURI.

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## CURRENT COMMENT.

President Castro has assumed the personal command of his army. It is gratifying to note that he got through an exhibition drill last week without tripping on his suber.

Congressman Beidler, of Cleveland, owns mines in the Massillon district from which about 200,000 tons of coal is being taken annually, but he is unable to obtain fuel for his home in Washington.

Literary people of Boston are agitating for the setting up of a tablet in honor of Edgar Allen Poe. Poe was born there in 1809, his mother being a leading woman in the Haymarket theater.

Uncle Sam and a private shipyard are to run a race on building battleships. Uncle Sam ought to win if his employees can be stopped from leaning back in their chair and paring their fingernails every half hour.

The Japanese face is commonly thought expressionless by western nations. The reason is that it is always seen in repose. That is part of Japanese education. It is, with them, a mark of the underbred to permit their faces to express any feeling in public.

Among the heroines of the day is a rich woman in a Connecticut town who, on being told that 35 tons of coal would be required for her conservatories during the winter, ordered her supply to be taken care of for the use of the poor, and let her choice flowers and fruits be sacrificed.

How much American capital has done in the development of Mexico is shown in a statement by the United States consul general at the capital of that republic, who estimates that \$500,000,000 gold is the amount of American capital invested in Mexico. The development of the railroad systems has been to a large extent done with American capital, which represents about 70 per cent. of the total investments in railroads.

James J. Hill is quoted as saying that he will soon give up active work and give way to a younger man. "The young man is king of the day," said Mr. Hill. "He is pushing aside the old men. New ideas are coming to grasp a situation and act on it, make him a power that's reckoned with. I am going to get out of his way before he pushes me. The young man of the proper make-up can put himself in any position he wants."

Leslie's Weekly commends Gov. Odell for relieving the people of New York from direct taxation by raising all needed state revenue from taxes levied on the franchisees of public utility corporations and follows up its entourage of the governor by urging that he recommend in his forthcoming message to the New York legislature a higher excise tax on liquor dealers, the proceeds to be set apart for the projected enlargement of the Erie canal.

The rapid rise of James A. Hemenway, of Indiana, who is to succeed "Uncle Joe" Cannon as chairman of the appropriations committee, ought to be a great encouragement to the much-abused sewing-machine agents of the country. It has not been very many years since Mr. Hemenway was peddling sewing-machines in southern Indiana. He is familiar with all the country roads in that section of the Hoosier state, for he has driven them day and night in search of housewives who were not supplied with sewing-machines.

The Pennsylvania railroad tunnel into New York city, which is to cost \$50,000,000, will be 12 miles long and will extend from Hoboken to Long Island City. It will pass under the Hudson and East rivers, and Manhattan island. The tunnels will be 18 feet 6 inches in diameter inside, and each will contain one track. They will have a depth of 37 feet under the Hudson and 35 feet under the East river. Electric motors will be used for the hauling of trains. Work must begin within three months and end within five years.

According to Rev. Russell H. Conwell, D. D., pastor of the Baptist temple in Philadelphia, the fact that the number of marriage licenses issued during the last year in that city were fewer than in the previous year by 2,000 is due to the increasing number of young women who have acquired a business college education, and are, therefore, fully equipped to earn a comfortable livelihood. Leaders of society agree with Dr. Conwell that the decrease in the number of marriages has been confined to the industrial classes.

Probably every lover of Alexander Dumas' "Monte Cristo" has wondered at one time or another why the high-sounding title conferred by the author on his sailor hero has never been assumed by present-day nobleman or millionaire. So it is interesting to hear that no less a person than the king of Italy is now actually "Count of Monte Cristo." The island belongs to Italy. The inhabitants of the island number exactly 11-4 men, 4 women and three children. They decline to speak of their lord as "the king," but as "our count."

# COLOMBIA TOO SLOW

Canal Question Dragging Along to an Exasperating Degree.

United States Cannot Afford to Dicker with the Freebooting Government, Says Senator Morgan, and He Will Demand Negotiations with Nicaragua.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senator Morgan, of Alabama, will introduce a resolution in the senate January 3 calling on President Roosevelt to open negotiations with Nicaragua and Costa Rica for the construction of an isthmian canal by the Nicaragua route. Senator Morgan takes the position that the "reasonable time" allowed in the Spooner act for negotiating a treaty with Colombia has already expired. He believes that any further dicker with the doubtful and precarious government of Colombia will either mean absolute failure or indefinite postponement of the construction of the canal. Mr. Morgan will urge that it is time for the administration to adopt the alternative proposition offered in the Spooner bill, and complete the arrangement with Costa Rica and Nicaragua, by means of which the Nicaraguan canal can be built and the work of construction commenced at once.

It is pointed out by Senator Morgan that no session of the Colombian congress has been held since 1899, and none will meet until March, after the adjournment of the United States congress. He calls attention to the recent developments in Colombia, and insists that it is by no means certain that favorable action upon the treaty will be taken by the Colombian congress when it does meet. He believes that the existing conditions threaten the loss of the canal.

## MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

Despite Alleged Restrictive Measures Immigration to This Country Is Rapidly on the Increase.

New York, Dec. 31.—Although the immigration of this port for the last half of the current year has not been as large as that of the first six months there was a heavy increase in the total immigration as compared with the previous calendar year. The total number of immigrants that arrived at New York and who were admitted in 1902, up to and including December 29, was 545,751, as compared with 417,713 in 1901, a gain this year of 128,038. The month of May showed the largest immigration, the number of arrivals in that month being 82,154. Italy and Austria-Hungary contributed the largest proportion of the year's immigration. The number of arrivals from Italy was larger than from any other country. The influx from Russia, Germany, Norway and Sweden, Greece and the United Kingdom was also very heavy.

## OSIFIED WOMAN DEAD.

Miss Stella Ewing, of Rome, N. Y., Turned to Bone 14 Years Ago & Sister Similarly Afflicted.

Rome, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Miss Stella Ewing, one of the ossified women who for ten years have been living wonders to physicians and scientists, died to-day, aged 39 years. At an early age she was afflicted with inflammatory rheumatism, which physicians failed to relieve. At the age of 25 she lost the use of her limbs, and eminent specialists said she was gradually turning to bone. During the last ten years of her life, Miss Ewing was totally blind and unable to move a muscle. A sister, Mrs. Emma Ewing Palmer, is afflicted in the same manner.

## Favor Simplified Spelling.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 31.—The Illinois Teachers' association, in annual convention here, adopted resolutions favoring the amelioration of spelling to conform with the simplified spelling as adopted by the National Education association.

## World's Smallest Woman Dead.

Deamont, Tex., Dec. 31.—Fatima Upoo, who was on exhibition here as the smallest person in the world, died suddenly after yesterday's performance. She was 22 years old, weighed 15 pounds and stood 28 inches high.

## Hemenway, the Killed Himself.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 31.—Mrs. L. H. Gilliam, a bride of two months, committed suicide here because of homesickness, her husband being out of town much of the time on business.

## Additions to Cudahy Buildings.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 31.—The Cudahy packing company will begin the erection of two new buildings at its plant in Armourdale, the cost of which will be \$70,000.

## Parson's Man Was Exposed.

Parsons, Kan., Dec. 31.—Prof. E. M. Luby, while experimenting with a new stereopticon lantern, was horribly, and perhaps fatally, burned by its exploding.

## To Inmate Southern Territory.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 31.—It is understood the Methodist Episcopal church, north, is planning to establish a college in this city.

## Morgan Denies It.

New York, Dec. 31.—J. P. Morgan & Co. denied that it was intended to consolidate the Erie, Lehigh Valley and Reading railroads. Mr. Morgan said: "There is not the slightest reason for such a story. It is altogether without foundation."

## Through Train Service.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 31.—General Attorney Peckham, of the Frisco line in Oklahoma, announces that through trains will be established on the newly constructed road from Blackwell, Ok., to Vernon, Tex., on January 1.

## Attacked Educational "Fads."

St. Louis, Dec. 31.—Over 300 delegates are attending the Missouri Negro Teachers' association here. A paper by Prof. A. O. Coffin, of Kansas City, on "Waste in Education," attacked the so-called fads of the day in modern methods of teaching.

## Home for Consumptives.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 31.—Dr. Egan, of the state board of health, in his annual report to Gov. Yates suggests that the state legislature be asked for an appropriation to erect a state home for consumptives.

# WANTED TO LYNCH HIM.

Excitement at a Jamaican Port Over the Murder of a Negro by an Officer of an American Brig.

Kingston, Jamaica, Jan. 1.—Excitement prevails at Savanna La Mar, on the southwest coast of this island, caused by the shooting there of the Jamaican negro second mate of the American brig, Sunlight, by the first officer of that vessel, H. G. Gardner, of Maine. The trouble arose on board the Sunlight over the color question, and the crew left her and refused to return on board. During the disturbance, Gardner fired at the second mate and probably fatally wounded him. A strong force of police was sent on board the brig to arrest Gardner, and it was with difficulty that he was overpowered and taken to jail. The police were compelled to guard the building in order to prevent native mobs from attacking it. The Sunlight was loading logwood for Boston.

## SO THE WORLD COULD KNOW.

Signals Sent Out from Washington at Four Hourly Periods Giving Exact Time of Death of Old Year.

Washington, Jan. 1.—A special series of time signals, on the same plan as the signals sent out daily at noon, were transmitted from the United States naval observatory here over the lines of the Western Union Telegraph company at midnight, and again at 1, 2 and 3 a. m., as an exact midnight signal to the eastern, central, mountain and Pacific coast sections, for the benefit of those interested in all parts of the country in knowing the exact instant of the beginning of the new year.

## Risked Her Life for Baby.

Emporia, Kan., Jan. 1.—At the home of Herbert Levett an upset lamp caused an explosion which resulted almost fatally for Mrs. Levett. In trying to prevent the flames setting fire to the cradle which held her six-months-old child, Mrs. Levett's clothing caught fire and she was perhaps fatally burned. She put out the fire, however, and her child was uninjured.

## Dreyer Enters Prison at Last.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—Edward S. Dreyer, former banker and treasurer of the West Park board, was taken to Joliet to-day to begin a long-delayed sentence for withholding \$316,000 of park funds. Nearly four years have passed since Dreyer's conviction, during which time he has been incarcerated in the county jail awaiting the results of efforts toward his release.

## Kahn Decides to Contest.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Congressman Julius Kahn (rep.), defeated for reelection in the Fourth district by E. J. Livernash, will contest. The official count gave Livernash a majority of 141, but a decision by Superior Judge Hubbard, in the contest for superintendent of schools, throws out so many votes that a partial recount gives Kahn a plurality of 124.

## Increase of Merchandise Imports.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Customs figures for the calendar year show imports of gold and silver of \$10,508,357, against \$19,367,785 last year. Merchandise imports aggregated \$583,621,495, as against \$55,029,575 last year. Duties collected for merchandise amounted to \$179,054,304, an increase of about \$18,000,000.

## Safe Blown to Atoms.

Astoria, Mo., Jan. 1.—The post office at Orange was robbed last night. Sixty dollars in postage stamps and \$40 in cash were taken. The safe was blown to atoms. The post office is in a country store. Pieces of the safe did much damage to the merchandise, one piece being blown through an oil tank, which flooded the floor.

## Claims Aggregated \$4,000,000.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 1.—W. E. Bainbridge, second secretary of the American legation at Peking, was here Wednesday, en route to Washington. Bainbridge was appointed commissioner to investigate claims of American arising from the boxer rebellion, and \$4,000,000 of these claims came before him.

## Prohibit the Same Gang.

Peoria, Ill., Jan. 1.—Bank robbers, presumably the same gang which has been operating extensively throughout central Illinois, made an effort to rob the Auten bank at Princeton. They entered the bank through a window. They were probably frightened away, as their tools were found.

## Fresh Water for Deserted Transports.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—The transport Warren is expected to arrive Friday from Seattle. She will be laid up with the other deserted troopships and all of the idle transports, except the Kilpatrick, will go up the Sacramento river to lie in fresh water.

## Mrs. Dockery's Condition Alarming.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 1.—Mrs. Dockery, wife of the governor, is still dangerously ill. The heart action is very weak. The bronchial tubes are inflamed, which adds to the alarming nature of the symptoms.

## Chapman Killed Two of His Wives.

London, Jan. 1.—George Chapman, whose preliminary trial is still going on at a police court here, was Wednesday arraigned on additional charges of murdering his first and second wives, the autopsy on whose exhumed remains indicated that they had been poisoned. Chapman came to London from America in 1893.

## Home for Ex-Fight for Britain.

Cape Town, Jan. 1.—A detachment of 100 Boers who have volunteered for military service in Somaliland, sails from here next week.

## FROM THE FATHERLAND.

The prisons of Prussia in 1900 harbored 45,824 males and 11,845 females. Bavaria has a special Home Insurance association, under government control. It paid out last year \$140,000 to members.

Imperial statistics for 1900 show that Germany had 24,389,926 acres of wood; in 1883 there were 24,333,748 acres, and in 1893 24,473,296 acres. The figures for 1900 show an increase, as compared with 1883, of \$18,718 acres.

# THE DOUBTFUL HOGG

Famous Texan Ridicules Scheme to Deport Negroes.

There are 10,000,000 Blacks in This Country and 50 Transports Could Not in a Year Carry Away the Natural Increase of the Race.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 30.—Former Gov. Hogg says Senator Morgan's plan of colonizing the negroes in the Philippines is "all a dream and nothing but the disturbance of the matter the ex-governor said: 'Why, do you know what his project really involves? The negro race is increasing at the rate of 750,000 a year, at least in the United States, and there are nearly 10,000,000 of them now living. If the government should undertake to send them to the Philippines it would require a tremendous fleet of transports, take two months for each transport to make the round trip and the greatest number of passengers each trip would be 5,000, which means 12,000 a year. Fifty transports would carry 600,000 persons over in one year if the conditions were perfect and the transports provided. Now, where would the government get 50 ships? Suppose that could be done, it would not dispose of the natural increase of the negroes, and there you are. Why, the proposition is ridiculous on the face of it.'

## "INSURGENTS" ARE ACTIVE.

Senators Who Oppose Cuban Reciprocity Strong Enough to Cause the Administration Much Concern.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Considerable opposition is developing to the ratification of the Cuban reciprocity treaty now pending in the senate. It is not taking quite the form that the opposition to the Cuban legislation took last spring, but it is sufficient in substance to give concern to the friends of the treaty.

## Canals Also Anxious.

Havana, Dec. 30.—After a lengthy conference between President Palma, the members of the cabinet and leading senators, it has been decided not to call an extra session of the senate to discuss the reciprocity treaty with the United States. President Palma is anxious to bring the discussion of this measure to an immediate conclusion and has urged the senate to resume its session January 5 instead of waiting until January 12. Senator Capote, chairman of the foreign relations committee, said it was impossible to resume before the 12th as the committee would not be ready to report on the 3th.

## SULTAN'S THRONE TOTTERS.

Re-ar of Morocco Chased Inside the Gates of Fez by Rebels—Spain Will Send Troops.

Tangier, Morocco, Dec. 30.—The sultan of Morocco is said to have retired to the palace at Fez with all his available artillery and ammunition and to have strongly barricaded himself in consequence of a threatened attack on the part of the rebels.

## Spain Taking a Hand.

Madrid Dec. 30.—The Spanish government is preparing for eventualities in Morocco, and has ordered troops at Malaga, Cadix and Algeiras to be held in readiness to promptly reinforce the garrisons at Ceuta and Melilla, Morocco, should the situation require it. A Spanish cruiser has been ordered to Tangier. According to dispatches received here from Tangier, the rebels chased the troops of the sultan to the gates of Fez. It is reported that the Europeans are preparing to leave Fez.

## Combs Received Instructions.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Hon. Leslie Combs, of Kentucky, recently appointed United States minister to Guatemala in succession to Godfrey Hunter, has had an interview with the president. Minister Combs expects to leave in a few days for Guatemala.

## Fulton's Spy Convicted of Murder.

Manila, Dec. 30.—Placido, who was Gen. Fulton's trusted spy, and who acted as commander of the supposed insurgents at the capture of Aguinaldo, has been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment by a native judge.

## Shot by Footnote.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30.—Because he ran when told to throw up his hands, W. H. Wells, a fruit commission broker, was shot and dangerously wounded by two highwaymen here last night. The men escaped.

## Prince Henry Coming Again.

Berlin, Dec. 30.—The papers here say Prince Henry of Prussia is going to the United States in 1904 to visit the St. Louis exposition and unveil the Veterans' monument in Philadelphia.

## All Heeded for Oklahoma.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 30.—It is reported from Shawnee, Ok., that the Missouri Pacific has offered to construct a line to that city from Claremore, Ok., a distance of 80 miles, a direction not traversed by other roads.

## Admiral Glass Appointed.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Formal orders were issued yesterday by the navy department detailing Rear Admiral Glass as commander-in-chief of the Pacific coast station. He will succeed Rear Admiral Cady, who has been placed on waiting orders.

## Consul Smith Improving.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The state department has received a report from Cairo that Vice Consul General Hubbard T. Smith, who has been very ill with acute Bright's disease, is improving.

## McKibben Left St. Joseph.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 30.—B. E. McKibben, who has been manager of the St. Joseph baseball team for three years, has signed to manage the Tacoma, Wash., team on the Pacific Northwest league next season. No successor has been selected.

## Missouri Pacific Also in the Field.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 30.—It is reported from Shawnee that the Missouri Pacific has offered to construct a line to that city from Claremore, L. T., a distance of 80 miles, a direction not traversed by other roads.

# THE FRISCO'S BIG DEAL.

Twenty Squares of Ground in the Heart of New Orleans Secured for Terminals—Other Property Bought.

New Orleans, Dec. 31.—President Younk and Vice President Winchell, of the Frisco, are in the city. It is expected that an official announcement soon will be made that the Frisco will enter New Orleans, coming down through Arkansas and Louisiana via Alexandria, and confirming the reported purchase of the big Port Chalmette terminals on the river front by the Frisco, as well as the other property and rights-of-way of the New Orleans Belt & Terminal company, and the Carondelet Canal & Navigation company. The Frisco is credited with purchasing 20 squares of ground in the heart of the city, whereon its terminals will be built.

## LOSE FAITH IN CHURCH.

Philippine Catholics Look Upon the Pope as Inferior to the United States, a Rome Dispatch Says.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Cardinal Guidi, the papal delegate, reports to the Vatican that coercive measures fail to check the ever-growing dissident movement in the Philippine Catholic church. The natives look upon the Vatican as inferior to the United States and wish to establish a national independent church. Pope Leo gave instructions to Guidi to seek the support of Aguinaldo, but that patriot is an anti-papalist and refuses co-operation.

## To Fight the Packers?

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 31.—Thirty-five acres of land on the Kaw river near the stock yards have been sold for \$125,000. It is said the real purchaser is the Kansas City Stock Yards company, and that a rival packing-house will be built, in retaliation for the purchase of land by the big packers in Clay county for a new stock yards.

## Expert Woman Thief Arrested.

Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 31.—Robberies of a sensational character have been reported to the police of Topeka, Leavenworth and this city, and the police have in custody here Mrs. Maud Spowers, who has confessed. She would hire as a domestic in a wealthy family, and after a few days disappear with all the jewelry and silverware in the house.

## Snowbirds Playing Havoc.

Everett, Wash., Dec. 31.—A 100-foot bridge at Madison on the Great Northern, taken out by a snowslide last Thursday night and upon which 265 men have been working night and day rebuilding, was completed yesterday. Last evening another tremendous slide bore down the ravine, ripping the structure entirely out.

## Captors of Humberts Get \$8,000.

Paris, Dec. 31.—The Humberts continue to absorb attention here. Minister of Justice Walle has given \$3,000 to the Spanish police for assisting in the arrest of the principals in the famous safe rans. This is additional to the \$5,000 reward offered for their capture.

## Two Oklahoma Men in a Duet.

Hobart, Ok., Dec. 31.—As a result of a quarrel between Albert McLean and William Wolfe, attaches of the Phoenix theater here, they fought a duel with revolvers and both were shot. Wolfe's wounds resulted in his death but McLean will recover.

## Gamblers Again Raided.

Chickasha, Ok., Dec. 31.—United States Marshal Madison headed an other raid on the gamblers here yesterday, when a joint was raided and a large amount of gambling paraphernalia broken up and piled in the street and burned.

## Young Girl a Spendthrift.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 31.—In probate court here Miss Mattie Watt, aged 19, of Normal, who recently inherited \$10,000, was declared a spendthrift and the court appointed a conservator who will have entire control of her fortune until she is 21.

## Lee Declares for Rubey.

St. Louis, Dec. 31.—Lieut. Gov. John A. Lee has declared for Thomas L. Rubey, of La Plata, for president pro tem. of the state senate and against Frank H. Harris. Lee will use committee appointments to help Rubey's election.

## Saloonkeeper Turns Evangelist.

Kingfisher, Ok., Dec. 31.—Fred Brockman, until lately a saloonkeeper, was converted at a revival meeting and has now started out as an evangelist and is holding meetings especially for his former customers.

## Cholera Killing 20 a Day.

Manila, Dec. 31.—Moros on the island of Mindanao report that cholera is decimating the villages on the east side of Lake Lanao. At Macul there is an average of 50 deaths a day.

## Mrs. McKinley's Niece Married.

Canton, O., Dec. 31.—At six o'clock this evening Miss Mary Barber, niece of Mrs. William McKinley, was married to Ralph Hartzell, a young attorney of Denver, Col. Mrs. McKinley was one of the guests.

## OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Twenty-three thousand tables covered with hieroglyphics have been brought from Nippur, in Mesopotamia, by Prof. Hilprecht.

The water power available on the Pacific slope for producing electric energy is equivalent to the combustion of 300,000,000 tons of coal a year.

In 1880 the value of farm products of the south exceeded that of manufactured products by more than \$200,000,000, while in 1900 manufactures exceeded farm products by more than \$190,000,000, though during that period the number of persons engaged in agriculture increased 36 per cent.

Germany's match-making industry, in which about \$9,000,000 is invested, is said to have been almost ruined by the output of the American Diamond Match company's new factories near Mannheim. Six months ago matches made in German works were sold at \$30 a case; now they are selling at \$16 a case, which is a dollar below the cost of production by German machinery. The Diamond Match company's works machinery made in the United States.

# A FINE COUNTRY.

Resident of Ohio Says Western Canada Is an Ideal Land for Farmers and Ranchers.

A delegate from Ohio to Western Canada says: "The whole of Western Canada seemed to me to be a very fine country, but I spent most of my time about thirty miles east of Lacombe, in Alberta, near what is popularly known as the coal banks on the Red Deer River, and I am very pleased to report that the country appears to be everything that the Agents of the Canadian Government have claimed for it. Good water can be obtained almost anywhere from 17 to 40 feet, and fed generally by springs. The natural hay and grain were magnificent in their growth, and wild pea vines very heavy. I met some of my friends who moved there seven years ago and two brothers who had absolutely nothing on their arrival seven years before now own two and a half sections of land and 175 head of cattle. They told me that they did not feed their stock all winter, in fact, never saw them again until the spring, when they came home fat and without loss. I gathered oats 6 ft. 4 high and running from 75 to 100 bushels per acre. It appeared to me that all grasses, wild and cultivated, grow to perfection in any part of Alberta that I saw, and the farmers were cutting from two to three tons of wild hay to the acre. I found the climate very desirable in every respect, and I am told that the winter is the finest part of the year. There is plenty of coal and wood to be had near at hand for the hailing, and